

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, May 2, 2018

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website here. For more information, contact TokyoMATT@state.gov.

HEADLINES

Noon news

TBS and Fuji TV led with reports that President Trump told the press on Tuesday that the location and the date for the U.S.-DPRK summit will be announced "over the next couple of days." NHK and TV Asahi led with a forecast for heavy rain in the Kanto region from this evening. NTV gave top play to a report that Tadao Yanase, a former top aide to Prime Minister Abe, is expected to admit at the Diet that he met with Kake Gakuen officials at the Kantei about three years ago.

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. media reports Kim Jong Un agreed to hold U.S-DPRK summit at Panmunjom

TV Asahi reported at noon on a CNN story that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed with ROK President Moon's proposal to hold the U.S.-DPRK summit at Panmunjom. CNN reported that a North Korean source said President Moon persuaded the North Korean leader to hold the summit at Panmunjom during their meeting last week. According to the network, a U.S. official said President Trump is strongly hoping to shake hands with Kim at the DMZ and that he wants to be filmed leaving the summit if it doesn't go well.

- Abe aims to resolve N. Korea abduction, nuclear issues (Kyodo News)
- Gist of PM Abe's news conference in Amman, Jordan on May 1 (Yomiuri)
- Japan will actively contribute to Mideast peace: Abe (Kyodo News)
- Abe says Japan to provide additional 1.1 billion yen to help Jordan with Syrian refugees (Nikkei)
- Kishida off to India, Vietnam (Nikkei)
- Comprehensive strategy needed for building peace on Korean Peninsula (Mainichi)
- <u>Survey of newspaper editorials on inter-Korean summit, DPRK</u> denuclearization (Mainichi)
- AIIB approves 2 newcomers, membership expands to 86 (Jiji Press)

ECONOMY

- U.S. eager to form trade deal with Japan "at some point": USTR (Kyodo News)
- Japan, U.S. bodies to help develop maritime oil drilling technology (Kyodo News)
- Hitachi to take part in Taiwan's shift in energy policy (Kyodo News)
- Venture capital funds team up with major companies to support startups (Nikkei)

SECURITY

- <u>Japan and US should put alliance on even footing, ex-minister says</u> (Nikkei Asian Review)
- Editorial: Renovation of Izumo destroyer needed to strengthen defense of remote islands (The Japan News)

POLITICS

- Prime minister's schedule on April 30 May 1, 2018 (Nikkei)
- Abe aide to correct Diet remarks over favoritism scandal: source (Kyodo News)
- An interview with Fumio Kishida (Nikkei)
- <u>Survey shows younger constitution scholars tend to accept SDF's constitutionality</u> (Yomiuri)
- Is Shinjiro Koizumi part of an "agricultural policy clique"? (Nikkei)
- 7 people with top bureaucratic experience admit to using private emails, Line for work (The Mainichi)
- Cartoon: Work-style reform (Akahata)

OPINION POLLS

- 75% say Japan-North Korea summit "should be held," Nikkei poll (Nikkei)
- Backing for Abe and Koizumi for next LDP president tied at 26%, Nikkei poll (Nikkei)
- 42% of voters feel the Heisei Era is "tumultuous," Asahi survey (The Asahi Shimbun)

EDUCATION

- Todai changes course, mulls private English tests for entrance exam (Nikkei)
- <u>Trial starts for potential new English test for national achievement exam</u> (The Mainichi)

SOCIETY

- U.S. man indicted for killing woman in Osaka (Kyodo News)
- 6 foreign trainees worked at Fukushima N-plant (Jiji Press)

